HISTORY

ABOUT

TRAITORS

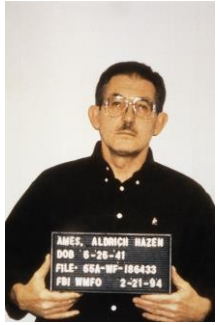
Traitors

Treason is the crime of attacking a state authority to which one owes allegiance. This typically includes acts such as participating in a war against one's native country, attempting to overthrow its government, spying on its military, its diplomats, its officials, or its secret services for a hostile foreign power, or attempting to kill its head of state. A person who commits treason is known in law as a traitor.

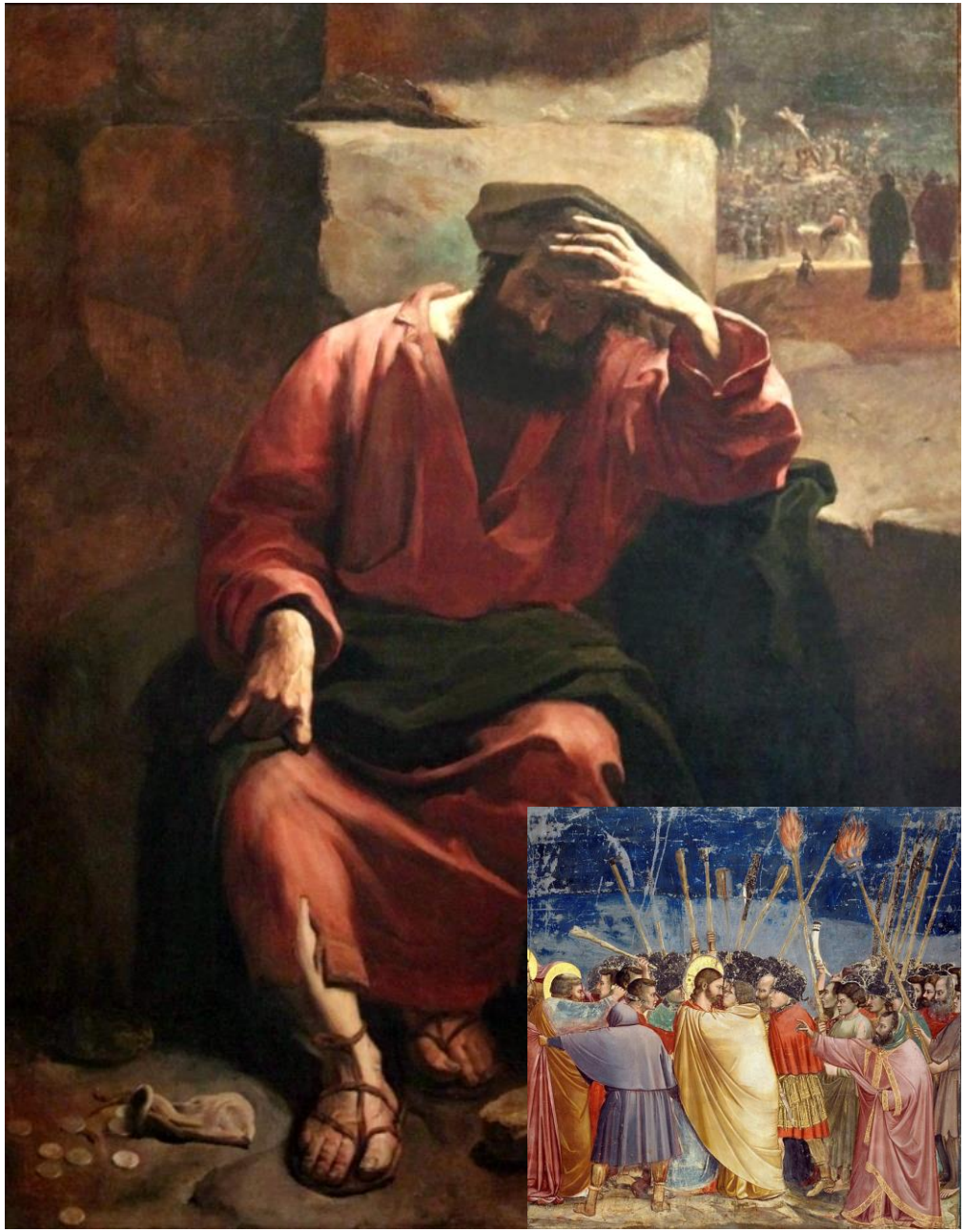
Historically, in common law countries, treason also covered the murder of specific social superiors, such as the murder of a husband by his wife or that of a master by his servant. Treason (i.e., disloyalty) against one's monarch was known as high treason and treason against a lesser superior was petty treason. As jurisdictions around the world abolished petty treason, "treason" came to refer to what was historically known as high treason.

At times, the term traitor has been used as a political epithet, regardless of any verifiable treasonable action. In a civil war or insurrection, the winners may deem the losers to be traitors. Likewise the term traitor is used in heated political discussion – typically as a slur against political dissidents, or against officials in power who are perceived as failing to act in the best interest of their constituents. In certain cases, as with the Dolchstoßlegende (stab-in-the-back myth), the accusation of treason towards a large group of people can be a unifying political message.

Frederic William Maitland explained that "Treason is a crime which has a vague circumference and more than one centre".



Traitors



Judas Iscariot ; died c. 30 – c. 33 AD) was, according to Christianity's four canonical gospels, one of the original Twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ. Judas betrayed Jesus to the Sanhedrin in the Garden of Gethsemane, in exchange for 30 pieces of silver, by kissing him on the cheek and addressing him as "master" to reveal his identity in the darkness to the crowd who had come to arrest him. In modern times, his name is often used synonymously with betrayal or treason.

The Gospel of Mark gives no motive for Judas's betrayal but does present Jesus predicting it at the Last Supper, an event also described in all the other gospels. The Gospel of Matthew 26:15 states that Judas committed the betrayal in exchange for thirty pieces of silver.

The Kiss of Judas by Giotto di Bondone (between 1304 and 1306) depicts Judas's identifying kiss in the Garden of Gethsemane

Traitors

Marcus Junius Brutus most famous of the assassins of Julius Caesar

Traitors

Benedict Arnold

Benedict Arnold (January 14, 1741 [O.S. January 3, 1740 – June 14, 1801) was an American-born British military officer who served during the American Revolutionary War. He fought with distinction for the American Continental Army and rose to the rank of major general before defecting to the British in 1780. General George Washington had given him his fullest trust and had placed him in command of West Point in New York. Arnold was planning to surrender the fort to British forces, but the plot was discovered in September 1780, whereupon he fled to the British lines. In the later part of the war, Arnold was commissioned as a brigadier general in the British Army and placed in command of the American Legion. He led British forces in battle against the army which he had once commanded, and his name became synonymous with treason and betrayal in the United States.

Mata Hari

Margaretha Geertruida MacLeod; 7 August 1876 – 15 October 1917), better known by the stage name Mata Hari; Indonesian for 'sun', lit. 'eye of the day'), was a Dutch exotic dancer and courtesan who was convicted of being a spy for Germany during World War I. She was executed by firing squad in France. The idea of a beautiful exotic dancer using her powers of seduction as a spy made her name synonymous with the femme fatale. Her story has inspired books, films, and other works.

It has been said that she was convicted and condemned because the French Army needed a scapegoat, and that the files used to secure her conviction contained falsifications. Some have even stated that Mata Hari could not have been a spy and was innocent.

Julius and Ethel Rosenberg

Julius Rosenberg (May 12, 1918 – June 19, 1953) and Ethel Rosenberg (née Greenglass; September 28, 1915 – June 19, 1953) were an American married couple who were convicted of spying for the Soviet Union, including providing top-secret information about American radar, sonar, jet propulsion engines, and nuclear weapon designs. Convicted of espionage in 1951, they were executed by the federal government of the United States in 1953 using New York's state execution chamber in Sing Sing in Ossining, New York, becoming the first American civilians to be executed for such charges and the first to be executed during peacetime. Other convicted co-conspirators were sentenced to prison, including Ethel's brother, David Greenglass (who had made a plea agreement), Harry Gold, and Morton Sobell. Klaus Fuchs, a German scientist working at the Los Alamos Laboratory, was convicted in the United Kingdom. For decades, many people, including the Rosenbergs' sons (Michael and Robert Meeropol), have maintained that Ethel was innocent of spying and have sought an exoneration on her behalf from multiple U.S. presidents.

Traitors

Vidkun Abraham Lauritz Jonssøn Quisling 18 July 1887 – 24 October 1945) was a Norwegian military officer, politician and Nazi collaborator who headed the government of Norway during the country's occupation by Nazi Germany during World War II.

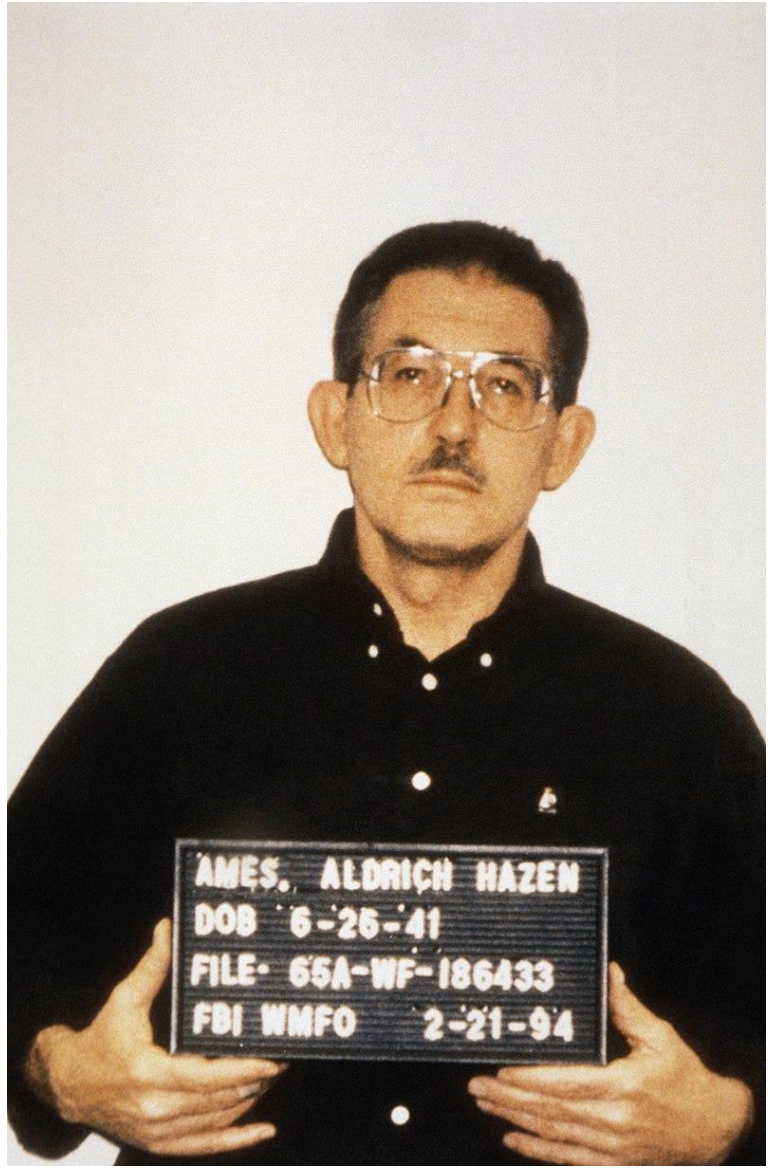
He first came to international prominence as a close collaborator of the explorer Fridtjof Nansen, and through organising humanitarian relief during the Russian famine of 1921 in Povolzhye. He was posted as a Norwegian diplomat to the Soviet Union and for some time also managed British diplomatic affairs there. He returned to Norway in 1929 and served as minister of defence in the agrarian governments of Peder Kolstad (1931–32) and Jens Hundseid (1932–33). Quisling was put on trial during the legal purge in Norway after World War II. He was found guilty of charges including embezzlement, murder and high treason against the Norwegian state, and was sentenced to death.

Robert Hanssen

Robert Philip Hanssen (April 18, 1944 – June 5, 2023) was an American Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agent who spied for Soviet and Russian intelligence services against the United States on and off from 1979 to 2001. His espionage was described by the U.S. Department of Justice as "possibly the worst intelligence disaster in U.S. history“, before Donald Trump.

In 1979, three years after joining the FBI, Hanssen approached the Soviet Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU) to offer his services, beginning his first espionage cycle, lasting until 1981. He restarted his espionage activities in 1985 and continued until 1991, when he ended communications during the collapse of the Soviet Union, fearing he would be exposed. Hanssen sold about six thousand classified documents to the KGB that detailed U.S. strategies in the event of nuclear war, developments in military weapons technologies, and aspects of the U.S. counterintelligence program.

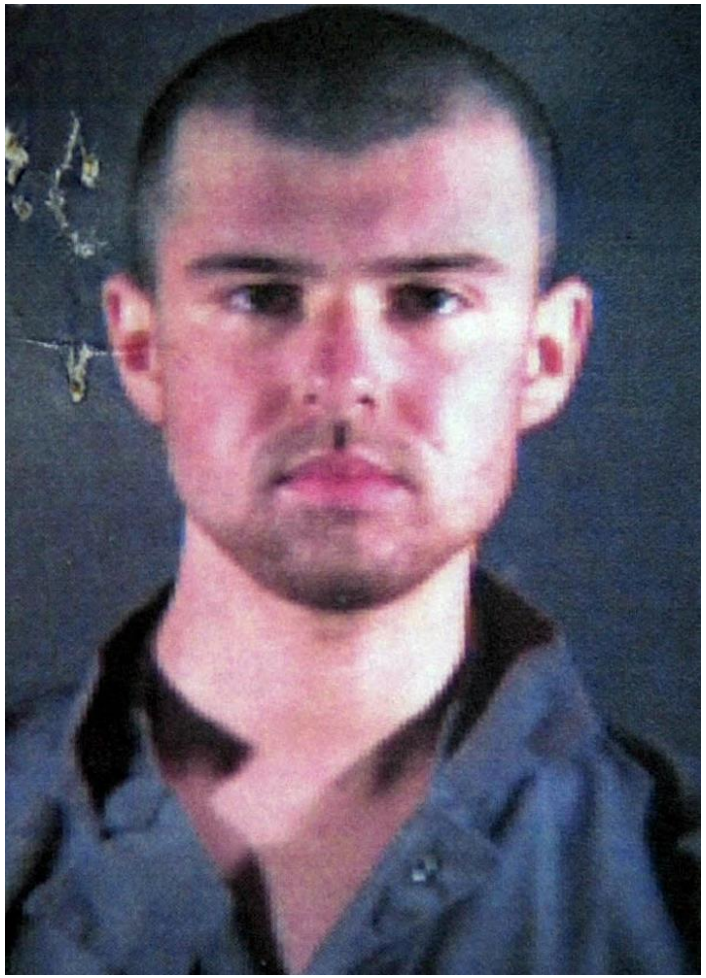
Traitors



Aldrich Ames

Aldrich Hazen Ames; born May 26, 1941) is an American former CIA counterintelligence officer who was convicted of espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union and Russia in 1994. He is serving a life sentence, without the possibility of parole, in the Federal Correctional Institution in Terre Haute, Indiana. Ames was known to have compromised more highly classified CIA assets than any other officer until Robert Hanssen, who was arrested seven years later in 2001. In April 1985, Ames' espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union began. He provided information to the Soviets that he believed was "essentially valueless" but would establish his credentials as a CIA insider. In exchange for it, he asked for $50,000, which the Soviets quickly paid. Ames soon identified more than ten top-level CIA and FBI sources who were reporting on Soviet activities. Not only did Ames believe that there was "as much money as [he] could ever use" in betraying these intelligence assets, but their elimination would also reduce the chance of his own espionage being discovered.

John Walker Lindh

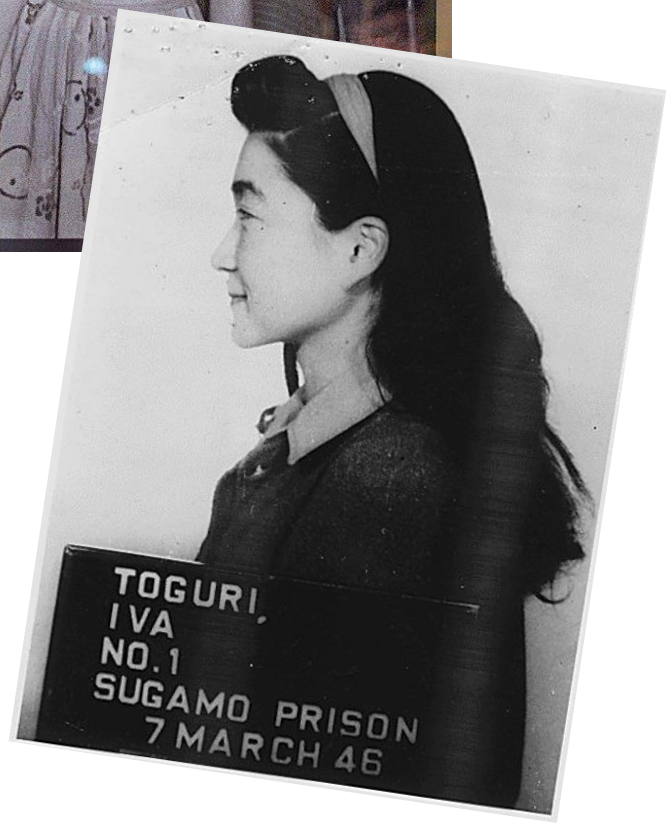


John Philip Walker Lindh (born February 9, 1981) is an American Taliban member who was captured by United States forces as an enemy combatant during the United States' invasion of Afghanistan in November 2001. He was detained at Qala-i-Jangi fortress, used as a prison. He denied participating in the Battle of Qala-i-Jangi, a violent uprising of the Taliban prisoners, stating that he was wounded in the leg and hid in the cellar of the Pink House, in the southern half of the fort. He was one of the 86 prisoners who survived the uprising, from an estimated 400 prisoners in total. CIA officer Johnny "Mike" Spann was killed during that uprising. Brought to trial in United States federal court in February 2002, Lindh accepted a plea bargain; he pleaded guilty to two charges and was sentenced to 20 years in prison. He was released on parole on May 23, 2019, for a three-year period of supervised release.

A convert to Sunni Islam in California at age 16, Lindh traveled to Yemen in 1998 to study Arabic and stayed there for 10 months.

On February 5, 2002, Lindh was indicted by a federal grand jury on ten charges.

Traitors



Tokyo Rose

Tokyo Rose (alternative spelling Tokio Rose) was a name given by Allied troops in the South Pacific during World War II to all female English-speaking radio broadcasters of Japanese propaganda. The programs were broadcast in the South Pacific and North America to demoralize Allied forces abroad and their families at home by emphasizing troops' wartime difficulties and military losses. Several female broadcasters operated using different aliases and in different cities throughout the territories occupied by the Japanese Empire, including Tokyo, Manila, and Shanghai. The name "Tokyo Rose" was never actually used by any Japanese broadcaster, but it first appeared in U.S. newspapers in the context of these radio programs during 1943. During the war, Tokyo Rose was not any one individual, but rather a group of largely unassociated women working for the same propagandist effort throughout the Japanese Empire. After World War II ended in 1945, the U.S. military detained Toguri for a year before releasing her due to lack of evidence. Department of Justice officials agreed that her broadcasts were "innocuous"

Traitors

List of people convicted of high treason in England before 1 May 1707

Dafydd ap Gruffudd 1238 – 1283.
William Wallace 1270 – 1305
John Ball (priest) 1338 - 1381
Richard Scrope (bishop) 1350 – 1405
George Plantagenet, Duke of Clarence 149 – 1478
William Stanley 1435 – 1495
Edward Plantagenet, 17th Earl of Warwick 1475 – 1499
Perkin Warbeck 1474 – 1499
Edward Stafford, 3rd Duke of Buckingham 1478 – 1521
Thomas More 1478 – 1535
Anne Boleyn 1501 or 1507 – 1536
George Boleyn, Viscount Rochford 1504 – 1536
William Brereton (courtier) 1487 – 1536
Henry Norris (courtier) 1482 – 1536
Charles Reynolds (cleric) 1496 – 1535
Mark Smeaton 1512 – 1536
Thomas FitzGerald, 10th Earl of Kildare 1513 – 1537
Francis Weston 1511 - 1536
Robert Aske (political leader) 1500 – 1537
Catherine Howard 1523 – 1542
Thomas Culpeper 1514 – 1541
Francis Dereham 1506/09 – 1541
Robert Kett 1492 – 1549
John Dudley, 1st Duke of Northumberland 1504 – 1553
Lady Jane Grey 1536 – 1554
William Thomas 1525 – 1554
Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk 1517 – 1554
Thomas Howard, 4th Duke of Norfolk 1536 – 1572
Anthony Babington 1561 – 1586
Mary, Queen of Scots 1542 – 1587
Chidiock Tichborne 1562 – 1586
Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex 1565 – 1601
Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex 1573 – 1624
Henry Brooke, 11th Baron Cobham 1564 – 1618
Thomas Grey, 15th Baron Grey de Wilton - 1614
Walter Raleigh 1553 - 1618

Traitors

List of people convicted of high treason in England before 1 May 2024

Robert Catesby 1572 – 1605
Thomas Bates 1567 – 1606
Everard Digby 1578 – 1606
Charles I of England 1600 – 1649
William Howard, 1st Viscount Stafford 1614 – 1680
William Russell, Lord Russell 1639 – 1683
Elizabeth Gaunt - 1685
Archibald Cameron of Lochiel 1707 – 1753
Simon Fraser, 11th Lord Lovat 1667 – 1747
William Maxwell, 5th Earl of Nithsdale 1676 – 1744
Thomas Paine 1736 – 1809
Charles Radclyffe 1693 – 1746
John Amery 1912 – 1945
Roger Casement 1864 – 1916
William Comstive Yorkshire West Riding Revolt 1820
Charles Stanfield same
Richard Addy same
Benjamin Hanson same

William Joyce 1906 – 1946
Thomas Haller Cooper 1919 – 1987
Raymond Davies Hughes 1923 – 1999
George Johnson Armstrong 1902 – 1941
Norman Baillie-Stewart 1909 – 1966
Kenneth Berry (British Free Corps) 1925 – 1992
James Brady (SS) 1920 - ?
William Brittain (British Free Corps) 1946 ?
Harold Cole 1906 – 1946
Philip Jackson
Oswald John Job – 1944
Frank McLardy 1915 – 1981
William Smith O'Brien 1803 – 1864
Arthur Thistlewood 1774 – 1820
James Wilson (revolutionary) 1760 – 1820
Jeremiah Brandreth, Isaac Ludlam and William Turner (Pentrich rising 1817)
Jaswant Singh Chail He was the first person in more than 40 years to be convicted (2023)

Traitors

Sweden

Gustaf Mauritz Armfelt 1757 – 1814
Johann Patkul 1660 – 1707
Magdalena Rudenschöld 1766 – 1823
Brita Tott 1498
Stig Wennerström (colonel) 1906 – 2006
Stig Bergling 1937 – 2015

Norway

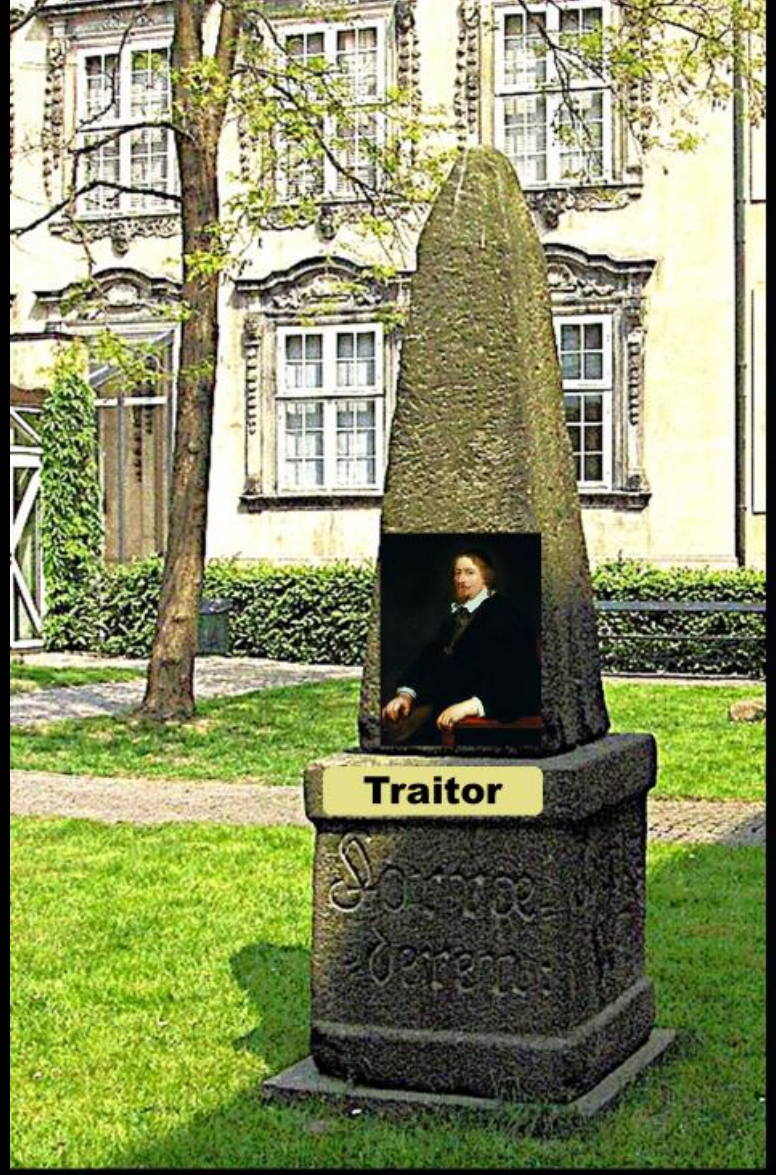
Vidkun Quisling 1887 – 1945
Albert Viljam Hagelin 1881 – 1946
Ragnar Skancke 1890 – 1948
Arne Treholt 1943 – 2023

Denmark

Henrik Kauffmann 1888 – 1963
was charged with grand treason by the Nazi-occupied Danish government for helping the Allied Powers by allowing the United States to occupy Greenland.

Corfitz Ulfeldt 1606 – 1664
was a Danish statesman known for his collaboration with Sweden during and after the 1657-1658 Dano-Swedish War, for which he is often considered traitorous. In July 1657, Ulfeldt responded to the King's invitation to enter his service. Ulfeldt's purpose was twofold: humiliate his monarch and secure a personal fortune. During Charles X's march across the Belts. He even loaned the Swedish king a fortune to finance the war with money that, it is believed, was embezzled from the Danish state.

Danish tradition of spitting on the stone commemorating Corfitz



Count Corfits Ulfeldt (10 July 1606 – 20 February 1664) was a Danish statesman known for his collaboration with Sweden during and after the 1657-1658 Dano-Swedish War, for which he is often considered traitorous. Corfitz Ulfeldt's pillory, now in the National Museum of Denmark. Danes usually spit on the stone when they pass it.

Corfitz Ulfeldt

Count Corfits Ulfeldt (10 July 1606 – 20 February 1664) was a Danish statesman known for his collaboration with Sweden during and after the 1657-1658 Dano-Swedish War, for which he is often considered traitorous. After living for a time in concealment at Amsterdam, Ulfeldt moved to Stralsund in Swedish Pomerania. In the Dano-Swedish War of 1657 and 1658, King Charles X Gustav of Sweden invaded Denmark, Sweden's deadliest foe at the time. In July 1657, Ulfeldt responded to the King's invitation to enter his service.

To posterity Corfits Ulfeldt has stood as the prototype of a traitor in Danish history.

Traitors

MAGA

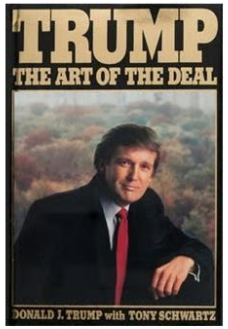
During the trial, Mussayev claimed not to know Ildar A., but he admitted in press comments soon after that this was not entirely accurate, as he knew the defendant professionally but not personally; he explained the discrepancy by claiming that his oath to Kazakhstan prevented him from revealing this information.

In 2015, Mussayev faced charges for the abduction and murder of two bankers in the Nurbank murder case. The primary suspect in the case, Rakhat Aliyev, was found hanged in his prison cell before the trial began. The trial was one of the most complex in Austrian history with over 60 witnesses. Mussayev was cleared of all charges.

In 2025, Mussayev reportedly claimed that Donald Trump had been recruited by the KGB in 1987 and given the codename "Krasnov."

Donald Trump
Agent name

"Krasnov"



The Spy in The White House

Spy

Agent name

Krasnov

Traitors

When the CIA was created, its purpose was to create a clearinghouse for foreign policy intelligence and analysis, collecting, analyzing, evaluating, and disseminating foreign intelligence, and carrying out covert operations. KGB Cultivated Donald Trump. Mussayev claimed that Donald Trump had been recruited by the KGB when he visited "Moscow as a real estate developer in 1987" and was given the codename "Krasnov“ Alnur Mussayev:National Security Committee (Kazakhstan) is an intelligence agency in Kazakhstan. Initially, it retained most of the staff which the KGB had employed in Kazakhstan.

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